

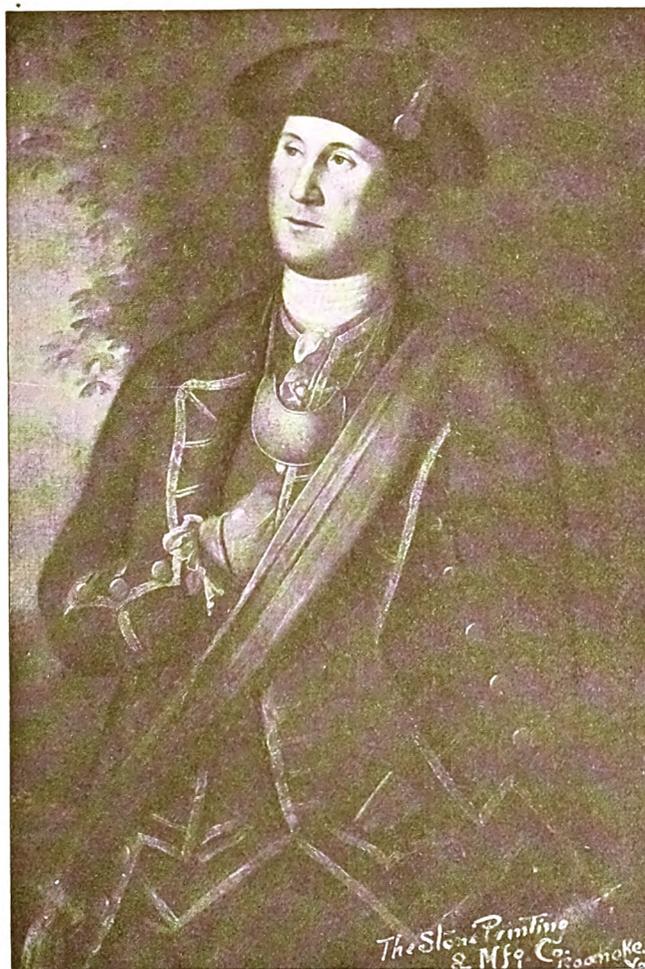
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# PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

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*Published by*  
EXECUTIVE AGENCIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.

JULY

RICHMOND, VA.

1927

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# THE PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

Published Monthly Under the Authority of The General Assembly by the Agencies of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Box 1176, RICHMOND, VA.

R. E. MAGILL, *Publishing Agent.*

J. E. PLEASANTS, *Business Manager.*

MRS. H. J. WILLIAMS, *Managing Editor.*

\$1.25 A Year for Single Subscriptions; In Clubs of Five or More \$1.00 Each Per Year. Entered as second-class matter at Richmond, Virginia, under the act of March 3, 1877. Acceptance of mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 5, 1918.

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# The PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

Vol. XVII

JULY, 1927

No. 7

## *Mission Progress in the Near East*

JAMES L. BARTON

IN ORDER not to scatter too widely I will confine this article almost wholly to Southeastern Europe, Turkey and Syria, but with special emphasis on the situation in Turkey. This is an area of mixed races and mixed religions. I know of no similar body of peoples more divided by race and religion into separate groups, almost like water-tight compartments. As a demonstration of this, take the nationalities of the pupils in the Near East colleges which are situated in Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Syria. These colleges number among their pupils twenty-nine different nationalities, chiefly Turks, Bulgarians, Syrians, Armenians, Greeks, Jews, Arabs, Egyptians, Persians, Russians and Albanians. When we remember that for generations nationality and religion have been closely identified in the Near East, we can get some conception of the difficulties confronting all religious movements in that part of the world.

Then, too, we have to remember that the different nationalities have had different political ambitions, with national aspirations, and these aspirations have repeatedly clashed in the past, accentuating differences, and the political and national differences have gone over into the area of religion. These clashes of interests, political and religious, have had much to do in the past with the disturbed conditions in the Near East. This situation was made more intense by the war, resulting in unusual distress and hardship, especially upon the Armenians and the Greeks. The settlements following the war have tended to ameliorate these conditions, and as time passes there seems to be a softening of the traditional animosities and hatreds and an increasing tendency to recognize human rights under more orderly government. This seems to be especially marked in Turkey. The exchange of populations agreed upon in Lausanne has materially aided to this end, in view of the fact that only a small portion of the former Armenian and Greek populations still remain in Turkey and a very small number of the Turkish population remain in Greece. The exchange of populations, while producing great hardships, has tended to unify the populations of Greece and of Turkey, while it has added to the confusion of populations in Syria.

One of the strong agencies that have been operating in the Near East for sound education and for the moral and religious training of youth has been the mission colleges and schools. While all of these institutions were begun through mission agencies, many of them have become independent of mission control under separate Boards of Trustees. They were all established,

with one exception, long before the war and have been training the youth of the Near East along lines of modern learning for more than a generation. The American University in Beirut, which was within the bounds of the Turkish Empire until the close of the war, is one of the old and established institutions educating youth of Palestine, Syria, Arabia, Egypt and Turkey and sending them out into different departments of life and work and the professions to practice the education and training they have received in the Christian college. Robert College, in Constantinople, with a smaller range of nationalities in its clientele, has had among its students four outstanding races, Turkish, Armenian, Greek and Bulgarian, and has rendered a notable service in preparing the young men of these races and of other races as well for a life of constructive force in the Near East. International College at Smyrna has dealt largely with Turks, Greeks and Armenians, and has been a great force, like its sister colleges, in giving to the young men under its influence a new conception of a high standard of character and of life. In Bulgaria the Sofia American Schools, which are the outgrowth of mission schools for fifty years, have been recently reorganized under a separate Board of Trustees. This School deals almost exclusively with Bulgarian youth in both its boys' and girls' departments. Constantinople College for Girls, another institution growing directly out of missionary operations, is doing for the girls of the Near East, with the same general nationalities as Robert College, what that College is doing for the boys. Anatolia College located at Salonica, formerly at Merzifoun in Turkey, is re-establishing itself as a school primarily for Greek youth, but with its doors open to Armenians, Albanians, Turks, and all nationalities. A new college has started in Athens under Greek leadership, which contemplates the same service for the youth of Greece that these other colleges have given to their mixed student bodies. All these institutions named have separate Boards of Trustees. None are under a Mission Board. All, except the Greek college lately formed, have grown out of the work of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Missionaries of the American Board have had a large part in the building up of these institutions. With the approval of the American Board they have gone under separate Boards of Trustees, although Robert College may be called an exception. Robert College has always had a missionary of the American Board as its President, but it has never been under the control of a Mission Board. All these are institu-

2. *Cuts "cut out" many hopeful centers of work.* I remember vividly the discouraging effect at Kashing after the last cut. Several new centers of evangelism in which the Kashing High School Volunteer Band was deeply interested were completely eliminated. It was very distressing to hear the students say, "What shall we do? All our preaching points are closed by the mission." These students were able to read the foreign papers and knew that there was plenty of money in America. Only a few dollars would have kept these evangelistic points open for the spread of the Gospel.

3. *Cuts have closed many day schools in the out-stations,* thus destroying the chances of the children of local Christians for a Christian education. Our Mid-China mission has been forced to leave the education of many of the Christian children to heathen teachers in the local government schools, since the Kashing High School receives no students under twelve years of age. The general effect in Chekiang Province has been an uneducated Christian constituency, and most of the students who finally apply to our higher schools of the mission are non-Christians. If the Southern Church had put \$10,000 a year into primary education for the last fifteen years, with good Christian teachers, and established a chain of Christian schools all over Chekiang province, as other missions have done in

Shantung province, the result would have been similar to that in Shantung where the Christian church is the strongest and truest in China. But *cuts have spoiled* even the small amount of day school work we were doing.

4. *Now a great persecution is raging in China.* Probably this era will later be ranked in history as one of the great persecutions of the Christian Church in the world. The Bolsheviks in China and the lions of the Colosseum will be ranked together. In many cases all the hope of livelihood left to Chinese ministers, Bible women, teachers, and others is the money promised by our Southern Church. A cut now would mean actual starvation or desperate need. Word has just been received that many of the conservative thinkers among Christian Nationalists may have to leave China themselves if the Bolsheviks win in the present struggle. If so, these faithful Christians will need their salaries to enable them to escape with their lives. Many already, according to private letters received, have been threatened with death if they do not deny their Lord. If we fail them now, what will they think of our Christianity? But a *cut* this year in contributions will force disaster upon the Christian leaders, and make them ask in their agony, as did the soldiers on Flanders fields, "Will you break faith with us who die?"

## Hidden Treasure

1. What does an anti-Soviet paper have to say of the possibility of any war being waged with Russia at the present time?
2. What may we believe as to the saving features of the present war in China?
3. Compare what is taking place in China with what has taken place in Western nations. What may we conclude?
4. Give some incidents of faithfulness on the part of the native Christians in China during these troublous times.
5. Does the temporary evacuation of missionaries from China and the persecution of the Chinese Christians darken the missionary prospect? Why?
6. Who is Mr. Stanes? What is his life work?
7. What is the answer to the statement "Now all your work in China that you have spent years in building up has been destroyed in a day"?
8. What often delays the getting out of Sunday-school literature in the North Brazil Mission?
9. What effect has the continual cutting of the missionary budget had on the work in China?
10. What is the most serious effect of the financial situation upon the work in Japan?
11. Tell of the uprising which occurred in Mexico in April.
12. What is a significant sign of the times in Mexico?
13. Just what does the "cut" in the budget mean to the work in Africa?
14. Where does the cut in the budget hurt worse in Korea?

## The Passing of Miss Kemper

ON MAY the fifteenth, Miss Charlotte Kemper passed over to her rich reward.

Few have been privileged to labor as she did, and few made use of their opportunities as she did.

Had she lived until August 21, she would have been ninety years of age. As it was, she was anxious to go to her Heavenly Home. A few weeks before her death she suffered her fifth stroke of paralysis. For one who had been as active as she for more than four score years being bed-ridden was a trial, but borne patiently, though she wished for the end.

For twenty years she taught in the United States and for forty years in Brazil, and such teaching! Almost all of the leading Brazilian Presbyterian pastors came under her influence and literally thousands of the church members.

She was an indefatigable worker, and her normal hours were from the wee morning hours until nearly midnight. She was never too busy to take on some special job, or some private pupil.

She read almost incessantly. Her breadth of knowledge carried her into scholarship in dead and modern languages; Bible and Church History; and in mathematics, she enjoyed a unique distinction—a woman that liked to work problems in calculus as a diversion.

Charlotte Kemper Seminary will carry on in her name. As she visited the new building, given as the Woman's Auxiliary Birthday Gift, she said, "The new Kemper is ready and the old Kemper must go".

Her hundreds of friends in the United States and her thousands of friends in Brazil will not mourn but rejoice that she is resting from her labours in His vineyard and has gone to His Presence.

B. H. HUNNICUTT.